endeavouring to telecast the said serial 'Upasana', commissioned by it, at the earliest possible opportunity. No firm date can, however, be indicated at present.

Popular serials on Doordarshan

7861. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has decided to shift the most popular TV serials from DD Metro-II/ to DD National Channel I on late night slots from June, 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons for this major policy decision;

(c) the estimated loss of revenue to Doordarshan due to this shifting of popular serials from DD-II Metro prime time slots of 8.30 P.M. to 10.00 P.M. and 10.30 slots of DD-I;

(d) whether this decision will benefit other TV channels viz. Zee TV and others as most of the sponsors will prefer to advertise on running slots of these private channels; particularly Zee TV; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken to re-consider the decision or postpon decision by Doordarshan authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposed shift is being made in order to make these populars serials available to a larger viewership through the DD-1 channel.

(c) Doordarshan does not anticipate any loss of commercial revenue on this count.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Ban on programmes of star TV

7862. SHRI G. G. SWELL:

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have put a ban on appearance on TV screen for those responsible in attacking Mahatma Gandhi on Star TV programme; and

(b) the names of the personnel involved in Star TV programme that attacked Mahatma Gandhi in most vulgar manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Government cannot ban the apearance of any person on a programme telecast by a foreign satellite channel beamed from outside India to a foreign satellite.

(b) The producer of the show 'Nikki Tonight' was Shri Raghav Bahl, Managing Director, Television Eighteen India Limited, N. Delhi. The interviewer was Ms. Nikki Bedi and the interviewee Mr. Ashok Rao Kavi.

Selection criteria of regional films and serials

7863. SHRI BHAGABAN MAIHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion for selection of Regional films and other serials etc. for showing on Delhi Doordarshan;

(b) whether the criteria are being followed while selecting such films from Orissa;

(c) if so, the reasons why only very old and outdated Oriya films are selected to be shown on Delhi Doordarshan; and

(d) the steps taken to provide entertainment to the Oriya viewers by selecting and showing good quality recently produced films?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) While the selection of serials in different categories is made on the basis of their suitability and the programme requirements of Doordarshan, the regional films are selected as per the eligibility criteria, a copy of which is annexed as Statement. (*See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The 4 Oriya films telecast by Doordarshan during 1994-95 cannot be considered as very old since they had won National/State awards between 1987 to 1992.

(d) Doordarshan will continue to give preference, among the regional films offered to it for telecast, to the films which have won the awards mentioned in the prescribed criteria more recently.

Statement

Feature films which fulfil any of the following criteria or have won any of the following national/state awards, as the case may be, only are considered for telecast on the national network of Doordarshan;

(i) National award for the Best or second Best feature film of the year (in all languages combined)

(ii) Indira Gandhi Award for Best first film of a Director

(iii) Award for best film providing popular and wholesome entertainment

(iv) Nargis Dutt Award for Best feature film on National Integration

(v) Best film on Family Welfare

(vi) Best films on other social Issues such as prohibition, women and child welfare, anti-dowry, drug abuse etdc

(vii) President's Award of 'Rajat Kamal' for the Best Feature Film in an Indian language

(viii) Films which have won the 'Certificate of Merit' in the National Film Festivals

(ix) Entry in the Indian panorama and mainstream sections of any International Film Festival of India/Filmotsav

(x) State Government Awards for the Best Feature Film

(xi) State Government Award for Best Direction

(xii) Films which have won any two State Government awards (other than those mentioned above)

(xiii) Films which have celebrated Silver Jubilee (having run-continuously for 25 weeks) and carry a 'U' certificate

(xiv) Films which have won an award in any international film festival held abroad.

LPT/HPT in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

7864. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the places in the scheduled areas of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh for the establishment of high power transmitters and